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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY USSR

REPORT

SUBJECT Evidences of Racial Discrimination and Anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union

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Attached for your information are excerpts of a conversation with a graduate student who did research at Moscow University in 1960-1961. According to the student, distribution of accommodations at the University was reorganized for the academic year 1960-61 so as to segregate men and women completely. This change had been dictated because the Soviet men were annoyed that Soviet girls had been going out with Africans. Despite official denials, student says, anti-Semitism exists in the Soviet Union.

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RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN THE USSR

During his stay in the USSR, the graduate student reached the conclusion that there was at least as much racial discrimination there as in the United States, particularly against Africans. The average Soviet citizen, even party activists at the University, were extraordinarily hostile toward African students. Distribution of accommodations at the University had been reorganized in the academic year 1960-61 so as to segregate men and women completely. This change had been dictated by the fact that the Soviet men were highly annoyed that Soviet girls had been going out with Africans, and the administration had felt that the way to put a stop to this situation was to make it impossible for men and women to live together. [ ] an incident in which a young African had been beaten up by Komsomol members during a university dance. A Ukrainian student indicated [ ] that he was unabashedly opposed to having any Africans at Moscow University. When later the Patrice Lumumba University was formed, it became a virtual "dumping-ground" for Africans, who themselves referred to it as "Apartheid University." Many students at Moscow State University were, in consequence, gratified that they no longer had to put up with so many Africans in their midst.

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Attitude Towards Jews

Despite official denials that anti-Semitism exists in the Soviet Union, a feeling of latent hostility toward Jews was sensed. The Israeli Embassy in Moscow was regarded as a hot-bed of Jewish nationalism, and it was felt that Israel was attempting to foment discontent among Soviet Jews. Two fellow students, one a biologist and the other a soil chemist, both over 30, [ ] their Jewish origin had been a great hindrance to them in obtaining admission to the University.

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